



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ZOONOSIS CONTROL DIVISION

PUBLIC HEALTH REGION 11

ANNUAL SUMMARY

2001

2001 RABIES SUMMARY FOR PHR-11

A total of 32 cases of animal rabies were reported from eight counties in Public Health Region 11 (PHR-11) during 2001. This represents a 23 percent increase in reported cases from the 26 reported from ten counties in 2000. The counties reporting cases (with the number of cases in parentheses) were: Bee (2), Cameron (2), Hidalgo (3), Kleberg (1), Nueces (1), Refugio (1), Starr (3) and Webb (19). All of the cases this year except one were in bats. The exception was a case of canine strain rabies in a dog from Webb County in February. This was the first case of the canine strain of rabies in PHR-11 since the rabid steer reported from Starr County in September 1999. The Webb County case appears to have been an isolated incident as there were no further cases reported.

COUNTY	2001	2000	% CHANGE
BEE	2	1	100
CAMERON	2	1	100
HIDALGO	3	4	-25
JIM HOGG	0	1	-100
KENEDY	0	1	-100
KLEBERG	1	2	-50
NUECES	1	5	-80
REFUGIO	1	3	-67
SAN PATRICIO	0	1	-100
STARR	3	0	300
WEBB	19	7	171
TOTAL	32	26	23

Table 1: Percent Change in Rabies Cases by County, 2000 to 2001, PHR-11.

During 2001, eleven people received post-exposure prophylaxis (PEX) due to contact with rabid animals. This is a 54% decrease compared to the 24 people receiving PEX in 2000. There were six dogs and three cats exposed to rabid animals in 2001, which was an increase from the four dogs and two cats exposed in 2000. Almost one-third of the exposures (four of the people and 2 of the dogs) resulted from the one rabid dog in Webb County, showing the important part domestic dogs can play in rabies transmission.

SPECIES	# CASES	% CASES	# ANIMAL EXPOSURES	% ANIMAL EXPOSURES	# HUMAN EXPOSURES	% HUMAN EXPOSURES
BAT	31	97	7	78	7	64
DOG	1	3	2	22	4	36
TOTAL	32	100	9	100	11	100

Table 2: Case/Exposure Summary by Species, 2001, PHR-11.

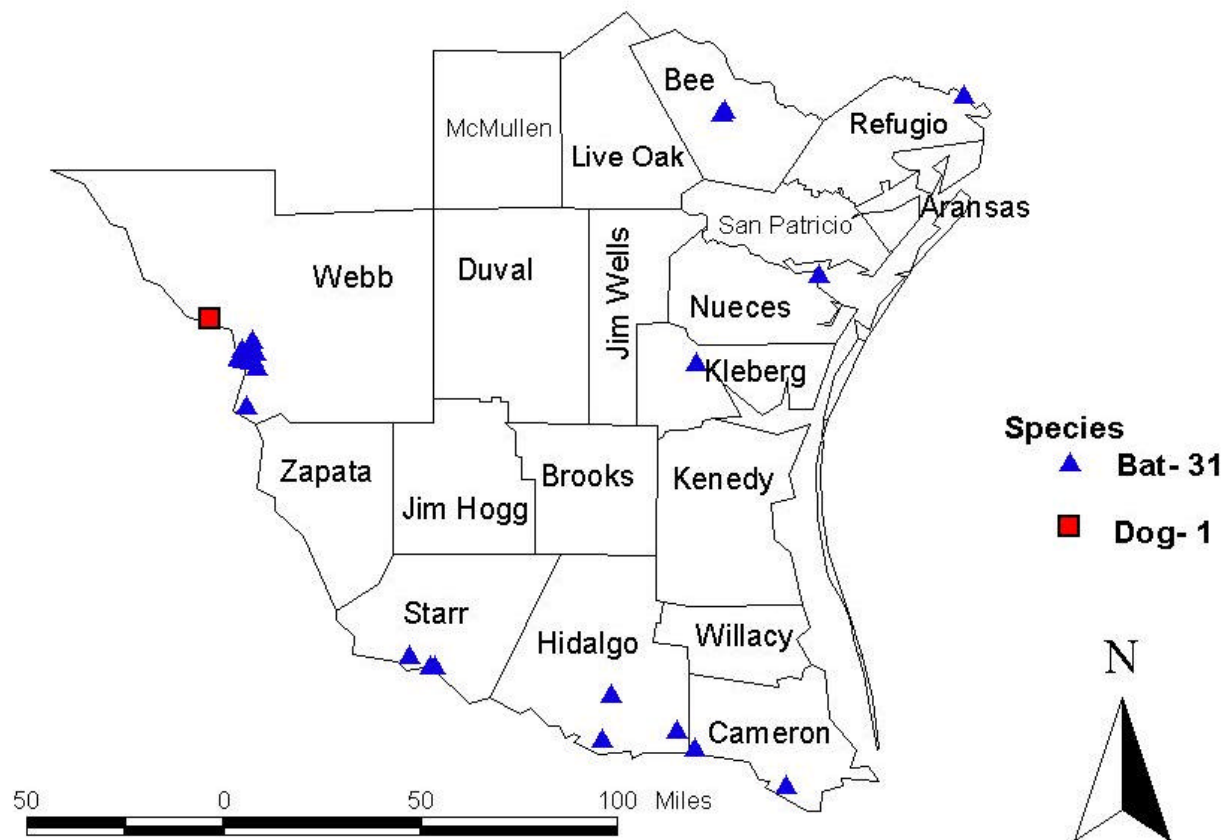
This case of canine rabies reinforces our concerns about the canine rabies strain reappearing and increasing to epizootic proportions again. We must all remain alert to reports of rabies in domestic and wild animals and see that they are reported to and investigated by the proper authorities and submitted for testing to the TDH lab. TDH is continuing the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program for coyotes in 2002. We will be distributing oral rabies vaccine baits in a 40 mile wide maintenance barrier along the Rio Grande from Eagle Pass to South Padre Island. Hopefully, we will not see any cases of the canine strain of rabies in PHR-11 during 2002.

It has taken eight years and several million vaccine-laced baits, but we seem to have finally gotten the canine rabies epizootic under control. With the help of countless private veterinarians, animal control agencies and private citizens, we have managed to eliminate this particular strain of rabies from Texas and shown that we can prevent its spread when it is reintroduced. We cannot begin to express our appreciation to the many people involved in rabies control in South Texas since 1988 that have helped bring this about.

COUNTY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
BEE			Bat- 1				Bat- 1						2
CAMERON	Bat- 1						Bat- 1						2
HIDALGO			Bat- 1	Bat- 1				Bat- 1					3
KLEBERG										Bat- 1			1
NUECES											Bat- 1		1
REFUGIO	Bat- 1												1
STARR		Bat- 1	Bat- 2										3
WEBB	Bat- 1	Dog- 1 Bat- 1	Bat- 4	Bat- 3		Bat- 1		Bat- 1	Bat- 3	Bat- 4			19
TOTAL	3	3	8	4	0	1	2	2	3	5	1	0	32

Table 3: Rabies Cases by County and by Month, 2001, PHR-11.

RABIES IN PHR 11 2001

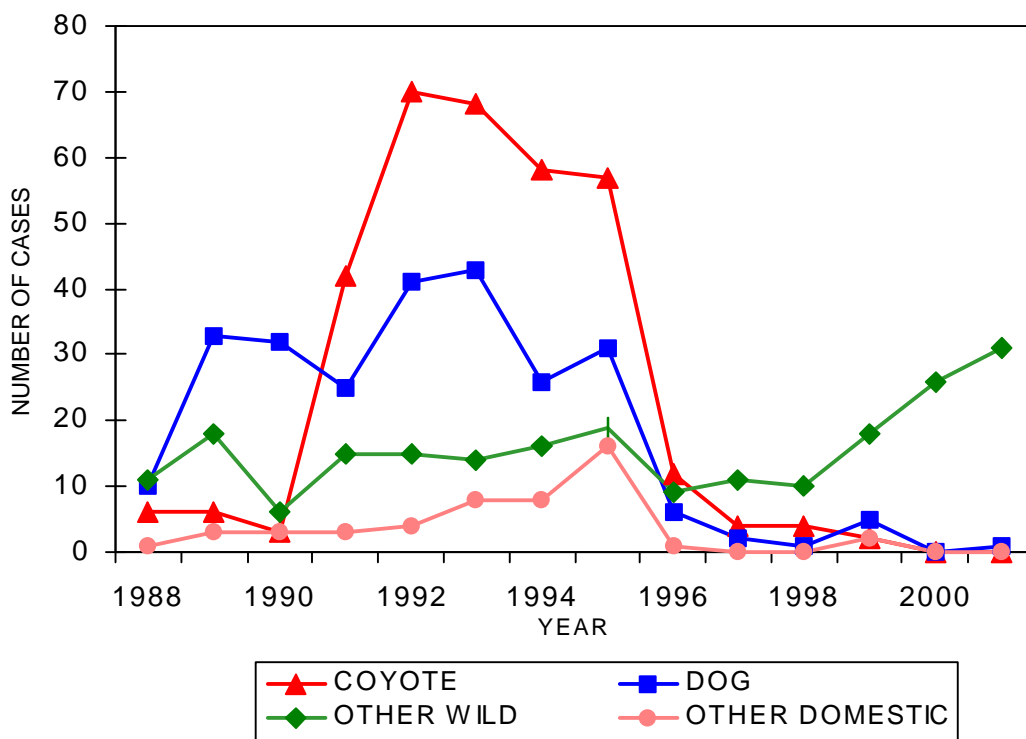


TDH LABORATORY-CONFIRMED RABID ANIMALS 1990 - 2001

MONTH	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	TOTAL
JANUARY	2	1	3	14	6	13	5	1	2	2	1	3	53
FEBRUARY	2	1	13	16	13	17	4	3	1	2	1	3	76
MARCH	4	6	18	15	17	25	8	0	3	0	7	8	111
APRIL	11	5	12	17	10	20	4	1	4	2	1	4	91
MAY	9	11	8	11	5	13	3	2	0	1	0	0	63
JUNE	2	2	7	9	8	6	2	2	1	1	1	1	42
JULY	2	5	7	9	6	4	1	1	0	0	1	2	38
AUGUST	4	4	8	8	5	4	0	2	2	7	2	2	48
SEPTEMBER	2	11	8	11	7	7	0	1	1	4	3	3	58
OCTOBER	3	16	11	6	10	6	0	0	1	3	4	5	65
NOVEMBER	1	12	13	3	11	5	1	3	0	4	3	1	57
DECEMBER	2	11	22	14	10	3	0	1	0	1	2	0	66
TOTAL	44	85	130	133	108	123	28	17	15	27	26	32	768

Animal Rabies Cases by Species

Public Health Region 11: 1988 - 2001



SPECIES	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	TOTAL
Coyote	6	6	3	42	70	68	58	57	12	4	4	2	0	0	332
Dog	10	33	32	25	41	43	26	31	6	2	1	5	0	1	256
Skunk	7	11	6	8	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
Bat	4	5	0	6	4	9	10	9	8	11	10	17	26	31	150
Cat	1	1	3	1	1	7	2	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	24
Raccoon	0	2	0	1	1	4	5	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	23
Cow	0	0	0	2	1	1	4	7	1	0	0	1	0	0	17
Horse	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Bobcat	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Goat	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	28	60	44	85	130	133	108	123	28	17	15	27	26	32	856